

HAER
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KING AND HAMILTON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT
MANUFACTURING COMPANY
I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Clinton and Marquette streets
Ottawa
LaSalle County
Illinois

HAER No. IL-76

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
KING AND HAMILTON AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT
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I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor

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Location: I & M Canal National Heritage Corridor
Clinton and Marquette Streets
Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois

UTM: 16 E.345780 N.4579520
Quad: Ottawa

Date of Construction: 1880-1900

Builder: Unknown

Present Use: Unknown

Present Owner: Unknown

Significance: The King & Hamilton Company Factory and Office are two of the few surviving structures in the Heritage Corridor associated with the manufacture of agricultural implements.

Project Information: The Illinois and Michigan Canal was designated a National Heritage Corridor in 1984. The following year HABS/HAER embarked on an extensive inventory and documentation project of the 100 mile-long corridor. Field work for this project was concluded in 1988. Final editing of the documentation was completed in 1992.

Historian: Gray Fitzsimons, 1985.

KING AND HAMILTON AGRICULTURAL
IMPLEMENT MANUFACTURING COMPANY
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The King & Hamilton Company started in 1868 as Gilman, King & Hamilton Company, manufacturers of farm implements including corn shellers, corn planters, and corn plows. The original office was a small, two-story, brick building erected about 1880. Around 1898, this office was extended to the south, and a showroom, consisting of a one-story, gable-roofed, brick structure, was erected off the west facade. The two-story office addition included a large bank vault. King & Hamilton remained in business through the 1920s. The two extant buildings of the King and Hamilton factory complex are among the few remaining structures in the Heritage Corridor associated with the manufacture of agricultural implements.

The Factory Building (built ca. 1900) is a three-story, brick building with a flat roof, stone foundation, common-bond, (red) brick load-bearing walls, and heavy timber interior frame with chamfered columns supporting massive timber beams. The factory measures approximately 225' x 40'. The main facade faces south and has numerous windows. Each window opening contains a brick segmental arch with a timber lintel behind the arch. Where the original wood sills have rotted, the windows have been replaced by cast stone sills. The loading dock has a large sliding door. The north facade (facing railroad spur) has windows on the second floor only; these twelve windows are centered on a large sliding door. The west facade once adjoined another building. Decorative elements include entablature with belt course, brick dentil course, and corbeled buttresses topped by tile coping on the north side and wood coping on the south side. The southwest corner of the building was damaged by a fire. The original company sign remains in place below the cornice at the east facade.

The Office Building and Showroom was built about 1880. Originally rectangular in plan, a 1898 addition changed the building to an L-shape. The two-story building has a stone foundation, brick walls covered with stucco, and a flat roof on the main part of building, running north-south. Some of the original four-over-one-light, wood, double-hung, sash windows remain in place. The windows are framed by arching brick stringer courses with round, wood, window frames and brick sills. A weighing scale is located outside the building at the northeast corner. All the original windows of the ell have been infilled with brick.

SOURCES:

Sanborn Map Co., Ottawa, LaSalle County, Illinois (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1888, 1891, 1898, 1913, 1925).

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Illinois of Today and its Progressive Cities (n.p., n.d.): 139.

Ottawa, Old and New: A Complete History of Ottawa, Illinois, 1823-1914 (Ottawa: The Republican Times, 1912-1914, reprinted by Bireline Publishing Co., Newell, Iowa, 1984): 67.